UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/1062
15 October 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 15 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 30 August to 27 September 1999.

I should be grateful if you would bring the report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

99-30006 (E) 151099

/...

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on KFOR operations

1. Over the reporting period (30 August-27 September), KFOR troops continued their deployment into the theatre. As of 27 September, there were 49,412 troops in place. Sixteen member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have now completed their deployments.

2. Austria, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, the Slovak Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, and Ukraine all completed their deployments over the reporting period. Russian deployment into the town of Orahovac continues to be hampered by ongoing demonstrations and roadblocks set up around the town by various groups of ethnic Albanians. Efforts to resolve the problems are continuing.

Security

3. The reporting period was characterized by a slight decrease in acts of aggression against KFOR personnel, although there was an increase in tension and violence during the last week of September. There are no indications of these incidents being linked to a campaign against KFOR. Ethnic tension persists, and attacks by ethnic Albanians against ethnic minorities continue, especially against Serbs and their property. Developments in the last days of the reporting period indicate that the tension in areas such as Kosovo Polje, Mitrovica and Orahovac could escalate and spread easily. Over the period, there were an estimated 112 civilian casualties in Kosovo. Five people were detained on suspicion of murder. Residual caches of weapons are still being found throughout the area of operations.

4. KFOR continues to work closely with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and recently launched a mine-awareness training programme in conjunction with the United Nations Mines Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) and other demining organizations. Emphasis is currently being placed on eradicating the threat from cluster bomb units (CBUs) and on clearing border-crossing sites. In this context, KFOR Multinational Brigades (MNBs) have reconnoitred all known CBU locations and have marked the bomblets for disposal by explosive ordnance disposal teams. The aim is to mark all areas and clear as many as possible before the onset of the first snow. KFOR continues to work closely with UNMAS to conduct expedient clearance of those areas that impact on immediate operations. KFOR has cleared 547 schools, and expects to complete school clearance activities by mid-October. As at 18 September, 4,462 anti-personnel mines, 2,331 anti-tank mines and 3,800 bomblets had been cleared. Residual caches of weapons are still being found throughout the area of operations.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

5. Overall, by K+90 (19 September), the Kosovo Liberation Army (UÇK) was assessed as being in compliance with the 21 June Undertaking signed by the UÇK leadership and the Commander of KFOR. During the course of its demilitarization, UÇK handed in approximately 10,000 weapons, mostly old and in

poor condition. UÇK officially ceased to exist on 20 September. At the same time, the Principles for the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) were agreed upon. The KPC will be a multi-ethnic civil emergency service agency, with no law enforcement role, under the authority of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who has appointed Mr. Çeku as its head. The Commander of KFOR will assist in the tasks the KPC must achieve, will provide day-to-day operational direction to the KPC, and, concurrently, will continue to take a robust line in monitoring compliance and, in particular, will ensure no unauthorized access to weapons.

6. While the senior leadership of UÇK appeared content with the agreement and transition to the KPC, it is likely that some UÇK structures persist. There have been incidents of former UÇK personnel not wearing the newly issued KPC uniform, or still wearing UÇK badges. KFOR will focus on monitoring compliance with the Principles and on supervising the provision of assistance to develop the KPC.

7. Over the reporting period, Serb security forces continued to comply with the terms of the Military Technical Agreement and remain cooperative in their dealings with KFOR, despite occasional encounters between KFOR and Serb elements on the boundary between Kosovo and the rest of Serbia. Seasonal military training by the Serb forces continues.

Cooperation with international organizations

8. KFOR continues to provide humanitarian assistance throughout Kosovo on a daily basis and upon request, focusing on transportation, the distribution of food, medical support, the re-establishment of support services and the protection and escorting of refugees and internally displaced persons.

9. With the police force of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) currently numbering only 1,483 policemen, civil administration in the area of public safety remains principally a KFOR responsibility. Responsibility for police functions in Pristina was transferred from KFOR to UNMIK at the end of August, and more than 560 policemen are deployed there. However, KFOR still conducts security patrols in all major urban areas and in the countryside in order to deter crime and instill a sense of personal safety in civilians. Approximately half of KFOR's total available manpower is directly committed to current protection tasks. KFOR provides daily support to the Kosovo Police School, which conducted its first class on 7 September.

10. KFOR continues to provide security and protection on the border-crossing points into Kosovo and conducts random searches of vehicles, including to prevent the illegal traffic of weapons and military equipment. KFOR also provides security for the transportation of customs duties collected at those border-crossing points manned by UNMIK border police. Currently, six KFOR battalions are primarily involved in border security operations and this responsibility will remain with KFOR, until UNMIK assumes responsibility for border control.

11. KFOR continues to support UNMIK at all levels of the civil administration in Kosovo, and is represented at the Kosovo Transitional Council, which met three times in September, and the joint civil commissions.

12. With respect to infrastructure, KFOR troops are still involved in such tasks as sanitation, securing water supplies and power plant operations. Rail transportation is operated and maintained by KFOR.

Return of refugees and internally displaced persons

13. More than 85 per cent of some 900,000 refugees in regional and third countries have now returned to Kosovo. This flow decreased appreciably in September, when only approximately 22,500 refugees returned home, the majority of them from third countries. Serbs in Kosovo remain isolated and dependent on the aid provided by KFOR and humanitarian organizations in food delivery and medical care. According to latest estimates from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and KFOR brigades, there are approximately 97,000 Serbs still in Kosovo.

Outlook

14. As noted above, the security situation in Kosovo improved in the early part of the reporting period. However, attacks against ethnic minorities, especially Serbs, and their property, remain a major security concern. There is also the danger that tension could escalate and spread from areas such as Orahovac and Kosovo Polje. KFOR will continue to work in close cooperation with UNMIK to address these and other issues in order to maintain peace and stability in Kosovo.